

# Mountrath Ballyfin Online Newsletter

22nd - 23rd March . 3rd Sunday of Lent

## Ballyfin N.S. Astroturf Project Dash to 44 Challenge

Best wishes to everyone involved in our Dash to 44 this Saturday. Competitors will be starting out at about 5.30 am commencing at Ballyfin GAA Club. heading to Rosenallis and onwards to Clonaslee - Kilcavan Mountmellick - The Rock - Portarlinton - O'Dempsey's - Courtwood Annanough - Emo - The Heath - Portlaoise - Clonad - Colt Trumera (arriving about 10.35 am) - Shanahoe - Abbeyleix - Ballyroan Rathineska - Timahoe - Stradbally - St. Joseph's - Ballylinan Barrowhouse - Arles Killeen - Graiguecullen - Killeshin - Crettyard Spink - Ballypickas - Ballinakill - Durrrow - Clough Ballacolla Rathdowney - Errill - Kilcotton - Kyle - Borris in Ossory Castletown - Mountrath (arriving at about 8.00 pm)

Camross - Slieve Bloom

and returning to Ballyfin G A A Club at about 9.00 pm

Amount raised to date - over € 50,000.00

*Your very generous support is much appreciated.*

Mary Kiely (Nee Doyle) Shannon Rd.,

(Patrick St., Portarlinton) R.I.P.

We pray for Mary who died peacefully at Regional Hosp., Portlaoise on Mon. 17<sup>th</sup> March. Mary's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath on Thurs. 20<sup>th</sup> Mch. followed by burial in Mountrath Cemetery. We extend sympathy to Agnes, John, Robert, Thomas. grandchildren Shauna, Jamie, Emma, Rachel and Niamh and their families. daughters-in-law Geraldine and Amanda, nieces and nephews, extended family, relatives, neighbours and friends.

Eily O'Doherty (née Leahy) Middleton, Cork.

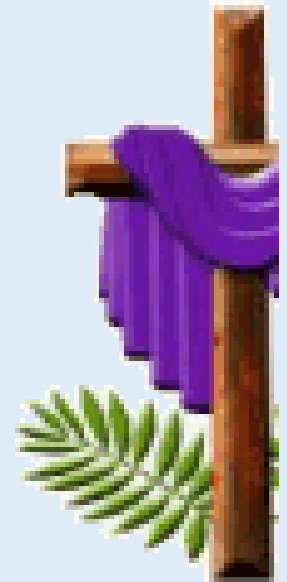
R.I.P.

We pray for Eily who died peacefully on Thurs. 13<sup>th</sup> March. Eily's Funeral Mass was celebrated on Tues. 18<sup>th</sup> Mch in St. Peter's Church, Dungourney followed by burial at Mogeely All Saints Cemetery. We extend sympathy to her brother, Br. Nicholas and Patrician Community, Cavansheath and to all the O'Doherty and Leahy families.

*May Mary and Eily rest in the peace of Christ.*



THIRD  
SUNDAY  
OF LENT



The Season of Lent 2025

—

Lent is What We Do

# Mountrath Ballyfin Online Newsletter

(Online from Saturday mornings)

Fr. P.J. Fitzgerald S.P.S C.C. (087) 605 5783

Fr. Joe Brophy P.P. (087) 241 1594

**Website** [www.mountrathparish.ie](http://www.mountrathparish.ie)

Email [jmbrophy2@gmail.com](mailto:jmbrophy2@gmail.com)

**Name of Parish App.**

*Mountrath and Ballyfin Parishes*

# Safeguarding Children Parish Reps.

## Ballyfin Parish

Triona O'Rourke      Peter Byrne

## Mountrath Parish.

Caroline Moore      Pacelli Walsh

## Diocesan Designated Liaison Person

Ms. Ailish Higgins.

## *Deputy Diocesan Liaison Person:*

*Ms Michelle Hughes c/o*

Bishop's Hse, Dublin Rd, Carlow      Phone 085 802 1633



*Remembering Pope Francis  
at this time*

Remembering  
Pope Francis  
at this time



# Daffodil Day

Fri. 28<sup>th</sup> March

Daffodil Day, in aid of Irish Cancer Society, is on Fri. 28<sup>th</sup> March. All contributions received on Daffodil Day each year go towards many of the services provided by Irish Cancer Society, including Cancer Night Nurses who provide in-home end of life care, the volunteer driver service which helps people receiving treatment to get to and from Hospital, financial help to families of children receiving treatment for cancer, a Freephone call service which provides information on a range of topics including cancer types, treatments, side effects and support for people living with cancer.

If you feel that you would be able to help out on Mountrath Daffodil Day your support will be much appreciated.

Just contact any one of the Daffodil Day team.



# Sunday Scripture Sharing

## Lent '25

See [Kandle.ie](http://Kandle.ie) to access  
this year's resource for reflecting on the  
Sunday gospels of Lent,  
featuring reflections from the  
late Fr John Cummins  
as well as prayer resources.

Jubilee Year

2025

“We are  
Pilgrims  
of  
Hope”

Jubilee year  
Pilgrims of Hope



## Jubilee Year 2025.

### We are "Pilgrims of Hope"

With the opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve, the Holy Year was begun. Across the world, the Jubilee Year began on the feast of the Holy Family. (Sun. 29th Dec. 2024) To echo the theme of hope, Pope Francis is calling on us all to renew the hope of Christ, using Saint Paul the Apostle as a guide for this special year.

### *The Jubilee Prayer*

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us,

*Pilgrims of Hope,*

a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

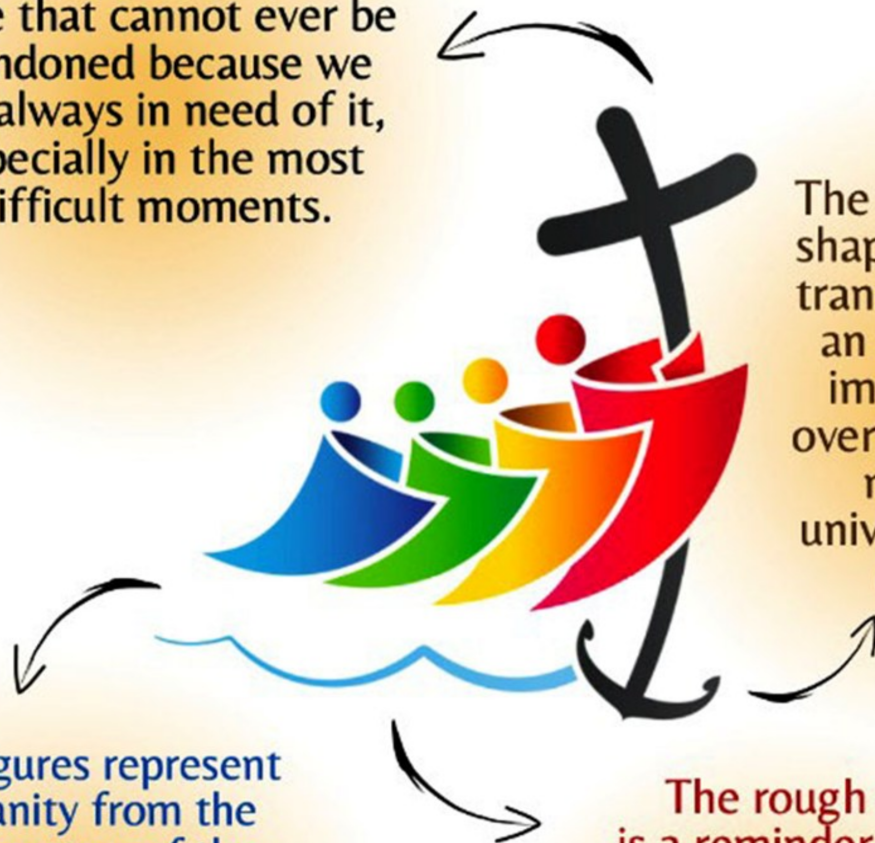
May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

*We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road  
We are here to help each other, walk the mile and bear the load*

*(From the Servant Song by Richard Gillard)*

The cross of Christ is the hope that cannot ever be abandoned because we are always in need of it, especially in the most difficult moments.



The Cross, in the shape of a sail, is transformed into an anchor that imposes itself over the waves in motion. A universal symbol of Hope.

The figures represent humanity from the four corners of the World. They are embracing each other to illustrate the solidarity between the peoples, as the first holds onto the cross.

The rough sea is a reminder of the difficulties of the pilgrimage of life. Often, personal events as well as those of the world, press on us more intensely, demanding a greater hope.



## *The Jubilee Prayer*

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son,

Jesus Christ, our brother,

and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts

by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope*

for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators

of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity

and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation

of a new heaven and a new earth,

when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,

your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us,

*Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of

our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,

be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

Confirmation

2025

Ballyfin Parish

# Confirmation Catechesis

with Confirmation Candidates and  
their parents continues following  
10.00 am Sunday Mass on the  
following dates

23<sup>rd</sup> March

4<sup>th</sup> May      18<sup>th</sup> May



Ceremony of Confirmation in  
Ballyfin Parish will be  
celebrated in St. Fintan's Church,  
Ballyfin

on Fri. 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

Ceremony will commence at 11.00 am

The Ceremony of Confirmation will be led by  
Bishop Denis Nulty

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# Diocesan Pilgrimage for the Canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis

Coinciding with the Jubilee for Teenagers, during the Jubilee Year of Hope, the Diocese is travelling for the Canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis, 25th - 29th April.

This pilgrimage includes a day trip to Assisi, trips to the pilgrims' sites of Rome and of course the Mass on Sunday in St. Peter's Square when Blessed Carlo will be declared the first 'Millennial Saint.'

Bishop Denis will join us for the pilgrimage as well as Fr. David Vard. Places are limited and can be booked through Marian Pilgrimages or forms and itinerary can be collected in Portlaoise Parish Centre.

Schools

News

# O'MOORES CAMOGIE CLUB

*Our Parishes, Our Club!*



For more information  
contact: 083-3374165

## REGISTRATION OPEN!

### WHERE:

Rosenallis Community Centre,  
R32VK64

### WHEN:

Friday 21st of March 2025

### TIME:

7:30pm - 9:00pm

### COST OF REGISTRATION:

- Adult- €100
- Student adult player- €75
- Juveniles (age 9-18)- €60  
(Second juvenile same family €40,  
Third juvenile same family €25)
- Juveniles (age 6-8)- €30
- Non playing members- €25

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME



# "Do This In Memory"

## Masses

Next "Do This In Memory"

Sat. 5<sup>th</sup> April 7.00 pm

(Mountrath)

Sun. 6<sup>th</sup> April 10.00 am

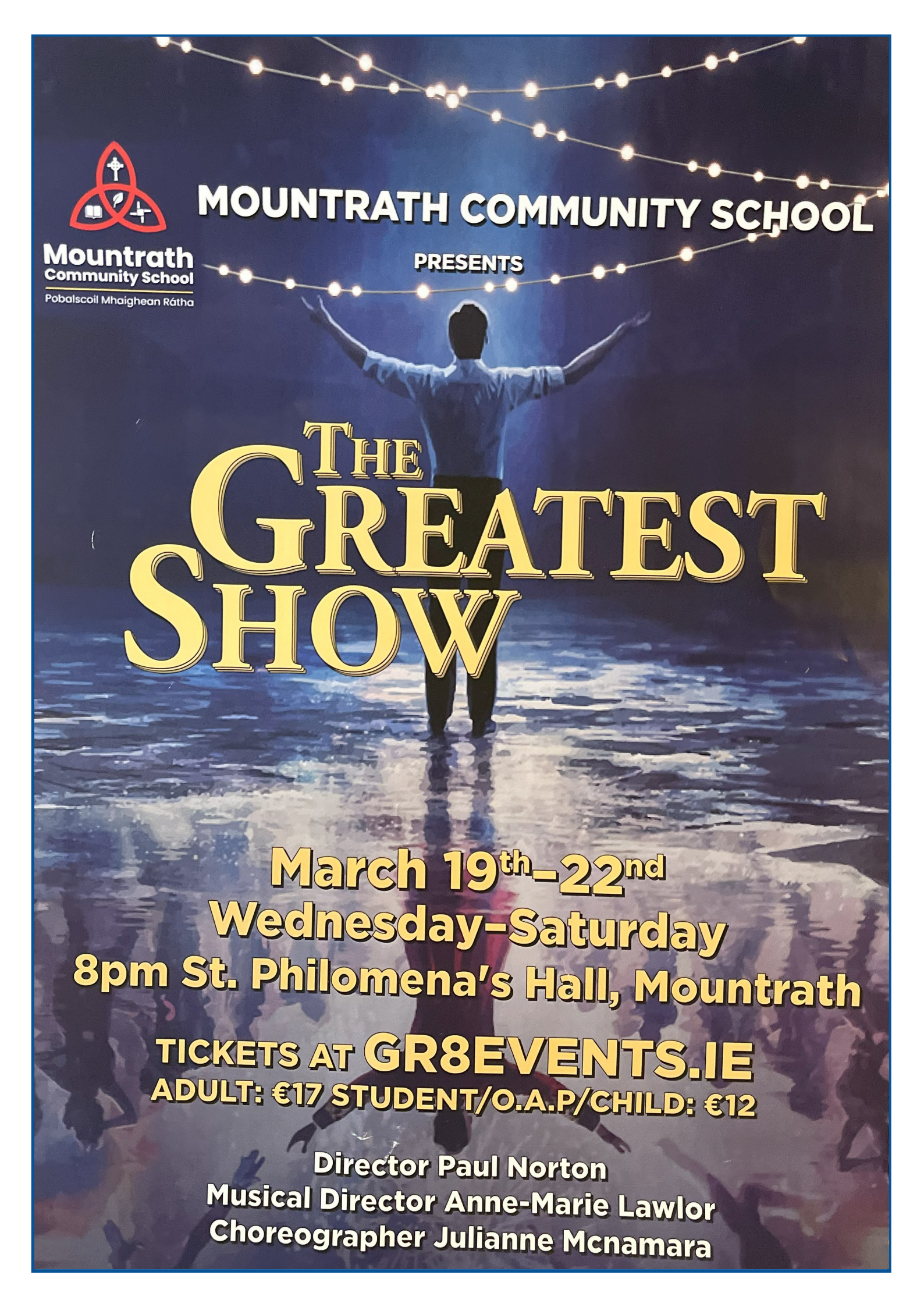
(Ballyfin)



**Mountrath**  
Community School  
Pobalscoil Mhaighean Rátha

**MOUNTRATH COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

**PRESENTS**



**THE  
GREATEST  
SHOW**

**March 19<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Wednesday - Saturday**

**8pm St. Philomena's Hall, Mountrath**

**TICKETS AT [GR8EVENTS.IE](http://GR8EVENTS.IE)**

**ADULT: €17 STUDENT/O.A.P/CHILD: €12**

**Director Paul Norton**

**Musical Director Anne-Marie Lawlor**

**Choreographer Julianne Mcnamara**

# Parish

# News



**2025**

**A COMMUNITY  
IN ACTION**



**The Book Bank**

**A social enterprise prioritizes social and environmental goals alongside financial objectives. All money generated is reinvested into the activities of the social enterprise.**

**The Bookbank social enterprise aims to create positive impacts, by providing social & cultural spaces, skills training & generating sustainable income. This income will be reinvested in education, creativity, art, culture & events for the community to enjoy.**

**By blending the efficiency and innovation of business with a commitment to social change, we can offer a sustainable approach to community challenges.**



**WE NEED YOU!**



**THE BOOK BANK**

**SOCIAL ENTERPRISE**

**A COMMUNITY BOOKSHOP**



**JOIN IN  
GIVE BACK**



**VOLUNTEER POSITIONS**

- Board of Management
- Shop Volunteers
- Events Organisation
- Social Media Promotion

***Public Information Meeting The Book Bank 26th March 1pm & 6pm***

# Daffodil Day Fri. 28<sup>th</sup> March



Daffodil Day, in aid of Irish Cancer Society, is on Fri. 28<sup>th</sup> March. All contributions received on Daffodil Day each year go towards many of the services provided by Irish Cancer Society, including Cancer Night Nurses who provide in-home end of life care, the volunteer driver service which helps people receiving treatment to get to and from Hospital, financial help to families of children receiving treatment for cancer, a Freephone call service which provides information on a range of topics including cancer types, treatments, side effects and support for people living with cancer. If you feel that you would be able to help out on Mountrath Daffodil Day your support will be much appreciated.

Just contact any of the Daffodil Day Team.

# Clean Up Laois Week

Ballyfin Community Alert have registered to take part in Clean Up Week - Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April. Collection point for bags of litter is yard behind Deadmans Inn and collection date for Ballyfin is Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April.

Contact Sheila 086 1570145  
for bags and gloves.

# Some 2025 Diary Dates

St. Brigid's Day Sat. 1<sup>st</sup> Feb.

Patron Saint of Kildare and Leighlin

Our No. 1 - Ireland's No. 2

Ash Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March

Mass in Mountrath 10.00 am 7.30 pm

Ballyfin 7.30 pm

St. Patrick's Day Mon. 17<sup>th</sup> March

Ireland's National Saint

**Masses** The Hollow Ch. 9.00 am

Mountrath 10.00 am

Ballyfin 10.00 am

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April Holy Thursday 7.30 pm

Ministers of Holy Communion Renewal during Mass

Good Fri. 18<sup>th</sup> April

Liturgy of the Passion 3.00 pm

Stations of the Cross 10.00 am - 7.30 pm

Easter Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April

## Lent is what we Do.

Trócaire Boxes are available to collect from the Churches from Ash Wednesday onwards... This year, meet Lima, Julio and their family who live in a rural village in Guatemala. Their eldest daughter, Miriam, would like to go to secondary school but with climate change and erratic weather destroying their crops, they have less food to feed their family and can't afford their children's secondary school education.

By cutting out on snacks or some other unnecessary expenditure each day in Lent and placing the money saved into your Trócaire Box, you can help families adapt to climate change and build resilience for their future.

# Sunday Scripture Sharing

## Lent '25

See [Kandle.ie](https://www.kandle.ie) to access this year's resource for reflecting on the Sunday gospels of Lent, featuring reflections from the late Fr John Cummins as well as prayer resources.

# Pioneer Lenten Challenge and Invitation

Pope Francis has invited us this Lent to  
“journey in hope together”.

A short-term pledge is available via

[www.pioneerassociation.org](http://www.pioneerassociation.org)

for parishioners who wish to become  
a “pilgrim of hope” for people who are living  
under the shadow of addiction.

A very sincere *Thank You*

to you and your family -

for your very generous support of

and continued commitment

to Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish

Funds

And

Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Lottos



Cemetery Masses

in

Mountrath

Ballyfin

Parishes

# Cemetery Masses

## 2025

Ballyfin Cemetery Sun. 8<sup>th</sup> June (2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. June)

Mountrath Cemetery Fri. 27<sup>th</sup> June (Last Fri. Jun)

Clonenagh Fri. 11<sup>th</sup> July (2<sup>nd</sup> Fri. July)

Cemetery on Right - Mountrath to Portlaoise

Clondarrig Wed. 6<sup>th</sup> Aug. (1<sup>st</sup> Wed. August)

Boghlone Wed. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept. (1<sup>st</sup> Wed. Sept)

*All Cemetery Masses commence at 7.00 pm*

Ballyfin NS

Football

Forecasting

Competition

# Ballyfin National School Football Forecasting Competition

Round 1, Jan 25th/26th

1<sup>st</sup> place,

Sean Larkin: 14 points

2<sup>nd</sup> place,

Greg Kerrigan: 13 points

3<sup>rd</sup> place,

Niall Westman, John Maher, Michael McNamee: 12 points

Thanks to all participants.

It's not too late to join the fun – sign up by contacting the school

or at <https://forms.gle/BAD6WzZkSD37Bft47>

Ballyfin National School,

Roll Number: 15537E

Ballyfin, Co Laois R32 N920

# Ballyfin National School

## Football Forecasting Competition

Round 2 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb

1<sup>st</sup> Place

George Lanham, John Farrell: 14 points

2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Colleen Quinn, Pauric Carroll, Tom Glynn: 13 points

3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Aiden & Deirdre Heffernan, Anna Rowney, Brendan Quigley, Conor Sweeney, Darren Hanlon, Declan Looby, Greg Kerrigan, Laura Ruane, Mark Gavin, Martina Kelly, Paraic Crone, Patrick Larkin, Stephen McGlynn, Timmy Quillinan, Tom Behan, Tom Finn, Tori Holohan, Vinnie Collins: 12 points

Thanks to all participants. It's not too late to join the fun – sign up by contacting the school or at <https://forms.gle/BAD6WzZkSD37Bft47>

# Ballyfin National School

## Football Forecasting Competition

Round 3 15<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> Feb

### 1<sup>st</sup> Place:

Colette Duff, Dan Molloy, Dylan Liam Linden, Marc Byrne, Michael McNamee,  
Nigel Sweeney, Seán Larkin, Timmy Quillinan:

13 points

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place:

Alison Groves, Anna Rowney, Colin Connolly, Darren Hanlon, John Dowling,  
John Farrell, Laura Ruane, Laz Molloy, Michael O'Sullivan, Ollie Cronin,  
Patrick and Molly Ryan, Paul Finn, Tommy Doyle,

12 points

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place:

George Lanham, Greg Corcoran, Greg Farrelly, Helen Stack, Jean-Marc Gasche,  
John Byrne, John Joe O'Connor, Kieran Cuddy, Mark Gavin, Michelle Fitzpatrick,  
Seán Bell, Tom Finn, Tom Glynn, Vinnie Collins, Bernadette Spillane,  
Cathal Phelan, Ciaran Linden, Colleen Quinn, Conor Sweeney,  
Declan Looby, Diarmuid Farrell, Gary Moore,

11 points.

# Ballyfin NS Football Forecasting Competition

Round 4 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> Feb

1<sup>st</sup> place:

John Maher, 11 points

2<sup>nd</sup> place:

Gerard Reynolds, John Clare, Lianne McGrath,  
Pauric Carroll, 10 points

3<sup>rd</sup> place:

Adrian Molloy, Berna Bennett, Brigid Meade ,  
Brigid Bennett, Cora Gorman, Donal Scanlon,  
Ger Lowry, Greg Corcoran, Greg Kerrigan,  
James Finn, John Farrell , Mark Gavin, Martina  
Downey, Martina Kelly, Michael O Sullivan,  
Michelle Fitzpatrick, Ollie Ryan, Paul Phelan,  
Peter Brady, Tiernan McBride, Tom Behan,  
Tom Finn, Tori Holohan, Yvonne Thompson,

9 points

# Ballyfin NS Football

## Forecasting Competition

Round 5 1st - 2nd March

1<sup>st</sup> place:

Diarmuid Fennell, Damien Piggot,

14 points

2<sup>nd</sup> place:

Adrian Molloy, Niall Westman, Ollie Ryan,

13 points

3<sup>rd</sup> place:

Michelle Fitzpatrick, Pat Swaine,

12 points



# Ballyfin NS Football

## Forecasting Competition

Round 5 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> March

1<sup>st</sup> place: Diarmuid Fennell, Damien Piggot,

14 points

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Adrian Molloy, Niall Westman,  
Ollie Ryan,

13 points

3<sup>rd</sup> place: Michelle Fitzpatrick, Pat Swaine,

12 points.

# Ballyfin NS Football

## Forecasting Competition

Round 6 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> March

1<sup>st</sup> place: Tori Holohan, 12 points

2<sup>nd</sup> Place:

Aiden and Deirdre Heffernan, Avril and Stephen Fitzgerald,  
Bernadette Spillane, Billy O'Connor, Denise Ryan, Emer and Barry Heffernan,  
Helen Stack, John Clare, John Neary, Laura Ruane, Michael Brady,  
Patrick Larkin, Philly, Sam Heffernan, 11 points

3<sup>rd</sup> Place:

Brian Dollard, Brigid Meade, Cathal Phelan, Ciara Conlon,  
Ciara Dunphy, Dylan Liam Linder, Gary Moore, Ger Lowry, Jamie Croke,  
Martina Kelly, Ray Dermody, Ryan Family, Sean Larkin, Stephen McGlynn,  
Tom Finn, Yvonne Thompson, 10 points.

Ballyfin National School

Astroturf Project

Dash to 44 Challenge

See following pages for

Route to our

Dash 44 Challenge

*Your support will be*

*much appreciated.*

## Ballyfin N.S. Astroturf Project Dash to 44 Challenge

Best wishes to everyone involved in our Dash to 44 this Saturday.

Competitors will be starting out at about 5.30 am commencing at

Ballyfin GAA Club. heading to Rosenallis and onwards to

Clonaslee - Kilcavan - Mountmellick - The Rock

Portarlinton - O'Dempsey's - Courtwood - Annanough - Emo

The Heath - Portlaoise - Clonad - Colt - Trumera (arriving

about 10.35 am) - Shanahoe - Abbeyleix - Ballyroan

Rathineska - Timahoe - Stradbally - St. Joseph's - Ballylinan

Barrowhouse - Arles Killeen - Graiguecullen - Killeshin

Crettyard - Spink - Ballypickas - Ballinakill - Durrow

Clough Ballacolla - Rathdowney - Errill - Kilcotton

Kyle - Borris in Ossory - Castletown

Mountrath (arriving about 8.00 pm)

Camross - Slieve Bloom

and returning to Ballyfin G A A Club at about 9.00 pm

Amount raised to date over € 50,000.00

*Your very generous support is much appreciated.*

			Arrive	Depart
1	Ballyfin National School	R32 N920 (T)	5.30am	5.45am
<i>Travel time 12 minutes</i>				
2	Rosenallis	R32 Y277	6am	6.10am
<i>Travel time 8 minutes</i>				
3	Clonaslee St Manman's	R32 FA33	6.18am	6.28am
<i>Travel time 16 minutes</i>				
4	Kilcavan	R35 DK73(Hse opposite)	6.44am	6.54am
<i>Travel time 15 minutes</i>				
5	Mountmellick	R32 AN88	7.09am	7.19am
<i>Travel time 5 minutes</i>				
6	The Rock	R32 YV48 (T)	7.24am	7.34
<i>Travel time 11 minutes</i>				
7	Portarlinton	R32 W202	7.45am	7.55am
<i>Travel time 5 minutes</i>				
8	O'Dempsey's, Ballybrittas	R32 DW98	8am	8.10am
<i>Travel time 7 minutes</i>				
9	Courtwood	R32 H6T1	8.17am	8.27am
<i>Travel time 8 minutes</i>				
10	Annanough (Vicarstown)	R32 RX67	8.35am	8.45am
<i>Travel time 12 minutes</i>				
11	Emo	R32 NV30	8.57am	
	<b>20 minute break</b>	<b>(T)</b>	9.07am	9.27am
<i>Travel time 6 minutes</i>				
12	The Heath	R32 HF72	9.33am	9.43am
<i>Travel time 7 minutes</i>				
13	Portlaoise (Rathleague)	R32 Y160	9.50am	10am
<i>Travel time 6 minutes</i>				
14	Clonad	R32 X403	10.06am	10.16am
<i>Travel time 9 minutes</i>				
15	Colt (Raheen)	R32 V085	10.25am	10.35am
<i>Travel time 7 minutes</i>				

1 6	Trumera	R32 K3HP	10.42am	10.52am
<i>Travel time 11 minutes</i>				
17	Shanahoe	R32 HP89 (T)	11.03am	11.13am
<i>Travel time 5 minutes</i>				
18	Abbeyleix, St Lazerian's	R32 H7WR	11.18am	11.28am
<i>Travel time 11 minutes</i>				
19	Ballyroan	R32 WE04	11.38am	11.48am
<i>Travel time 12 minutes</i>				
20	Ratheniska	R32 WR94	12pm	12.10pm
<i>Travel time 6 minutes</i>				
21	Timahoe	R32 A586	12.16pm	12.26pm
<i>Travel time 10 minutes</i>				
22	Stradbally	R32 AE40	12.36pm	
	<b>30 minute break</b>	<b>(T)</b>	<b>12.46pm</b>	<b>1.16pm</b>
<i>Travel time 8 minutes</i>				
23	St Joseph's (Ballintubbert)	R14 YH72 (T)	1.24pm	1.34pm
<i>Travel time 12 minutes</i>				
24	Ballylinan	R14 Y938	1.46pm	1.56pm
<i>Travel time 7 minutes</i>				
25	Barrowhouse	R14 K156	2.03pm	2.13pm
<i>Travel time 12 minutes</i>				
26	Arles Killeen	R93 YF67	2.25pm	2.35pm
<i>Travel time 5 minutes</i>				
27	Arles Kilcruise	R93 Y2R5	2.40pm	2.50pm
<i>Travel time 10 minutes</i>				
28	Graigecullen	R93 X298	3pm	3.10pm
<i>Travel time 8 minutes</i>				
29	Killeshin	R93 EE71 (T)	3.18pm	
	<b>20 minute break</b>		<b>3.28pm</b>	<b>3.48pm</b>
<i>Travel time 11 minutes</i>				
30	Crettyard	R93 N611	3.59pm	4.09pm
<i>Travel time 13 minutes</i>				

31	Spink	R32PW80 (T)	4.22pm	4.32pm
<i>Travel time 3 minutes</i>				
32	Ballypickas	R32 F642	4.35pm	4.45pm
<i>Travel time 4 minutes</i>				
33	Ballinakill	R32 DV78	4.49pm	4.59pm
<i>Travel time 9 minutes</i>				
34	The Harps, Durrow	R32 Y970	5.08pm	5.18pm
<i>Travel time 6 minutes</i>				
35	Clough Ballacolla (Ballacolla)	R32 R8HN	5.24pm	5.34pm
<i>Travel time 12 minutes</i>				
36	Rathdowney	R32 ET63	5.46pm	5.56pm
<i>Travel time 9 minutes</i>				
37	Errill	R32 DX89	6.05pm	6.15pm
<i>Travel time 15 minutes</i>				
38	Kilcotton	R32 R983 (T)	6.30pm	6.40pm
<i>Travel time 11 minutes</i>				
39	Kyle	R32 F6W6	6.51pm	7.01pm
<i>Travel time 6 minutes</i>				
40	Borris in Ossory	R32 WN26 (T)	7.07pm	
	<b>20 minute break</b>		<b>7.17pm</b>	<b>7.37pm</b>
<i>Travel time 7 minutes</i>				
41	Castletown	R32 DP77	7.44pm	7.54pm
<i>Travel time 4 minutes</i>				
42	Mountrath	R32 AE63	7.58pm	8.08pm
<i>Travel time 10 minutes</i>				
43	Camross Village pitch	R32YEF6	8.18pm	8.28pm
<i>Travel time 10 minutes</i>				
44	Slieve Bloom	R32 T990	8.38pm	8.48pm
<i>Travel time 10 minutes</i>				
45	Ballyfin GAA	R32 P642 (T)	8.58pm	
Refreshments in Ballyfin NS after final lap				

# Get Well Wishes

We keep and hold in our Thoughts and Prayers,

People, their families and carers,

who are ill or unwell, at home,

in Hospital or Nursing Home

or undergoing any surgical or medical

procedures at this time.

We wish you a speedy recovery



# Bingo

every Monday night

In St. Fintan's Hall at 8pm.

Come along and bring a friend!!



# SeniorLine

Would like someone to talk to at this time ?

SeniorLine is Ireland's national telephone service for older people open every day of the year  
10am-10pm,

Freephone 1800 80 45 91.

You may feel isolated, alone, bereaved or far from family.

SeniorLine's older volunteers are trained to listen,  
to support and refer to other helpful services if necessary.

So don't be alone and lift the phone.

Phone SeniorLine 1800 80 45 91,  
No problem too big or too small.

# Table Quiz.

Presented by Class of 90 at Bloom HQ.

Thurs. 1<sup>st</sup> May

8.00 pm Sharp.

€ 10.00 per person. Tables of 4

*All proceeds to*

*- Class of 90 Restoration Project.*

## Monster Raffle

Trophies for 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup>

Winners

1st Holy  
Communion  
(1st Eucharist)  
2025

# 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Days in 2025

## Mass Dates and Times

Gaelscoil Thromaire Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025

The Hollow Church - 9.00 am

Barnashrone National School Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025

St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin Time 2.00 pm

Scoil Bride, Mountrath.

St. Fintan's Boys School, Mountrath

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025 St. Fintan's Church, Mountrath

Time 11.30 am

Ballyfin National School

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2025

St. Fintan's Church, Ballyfin Time 2.00 pm

Dates of "Do This in Memory" Masses,  
Mountrath and Ballyfin, 2024/25

Preparation Masses  
for 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion 2025.

"Do This In Memory" Masses

Mountrath

Sat. 5<sup>th</sup> April

Ballyfin

Sun. 6<sup>th</sup> April

## 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Preparation - Continued

All candidates preparing to receive 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion in May of next year are required to attend all these Masses with their parents or guardian — family

### Ref. Mountrath Parish

If, for whatever reason, you are unable to bring your child to Saturday evening Mass in Mountrath you are most welcome to bring you child to the Sunday morning Mass in Ballyfin Church at 10.00 am on the following morning.

### Ref. Ballyfin Parish

If, for whatever reason, you are unable to bring your child to Sunday morning Mass in Ballyfin you are most welcome to bring you child to the Saturday evening Mass in Mountrath Church at 7.00 pm on the previous evening.

## Arranging Anniversary Mass or Month's Mind Mass

The traditional way of arranging an Anniversary Mass remembrance was by visiting the Sacristy before or after Mass and making the necessary arrangement with the priest, who wrote the intention into the Anniversaries Diary, there and then.

However, since Covid this practice has changed.

Arrangements for Anniversary Mass remembrances and Month's Mind Masses are, more often than not, now arranged by email, text message, Whatsapp, by phone, among many other ways. Which is great.

On the down-side, it can be quiet difficult to keep track of all these ways. - Sometimes emails can go to folders on the computer other than the main folder and are not seen straight away. The same can apply to text messages and Whatsapp messages. This can cause a problem when I have no knowledge of these emails / messages coming in and are sometimes not detected at the time.

*Can I ask you -*

if you send me an email, text message or a message on Whatsapp, or any way, other than visiting the Sacristy, requesting an Anniversary Mass remembrance or arrangements for a Month's Mind Mass and don't hear from me or don't see the relevant name / names in the Newsletter,

please give me a call on 087 241 1594



*If you wish to contribute directly through your Bank account  
to Parish funds*

*Here are our Bank Account details*

**Ballyfin Parish** - (A.I.B. Portlaoise Branch)

Lyster Square, Portlaoise.

Name of Account - Ballyfin Parish Pastoral Council

IBAN - IE44 AIBK 9332 7900 203030

BIC. - AIBKIE2D

**Mountrath Parish - Bank Account Details**

(Bank of Ireland) (Portlaoise Branch)

Name - Mountrath Parish Current Account -

Account number - 7274 7250

IBAN - IE93 BOFI 9018 2972 7472 50 -

BIC. - BOFIE2D

**If contributing to Parish directly through our bank account please include  
your own name as the reference.**

# *Anniversary Masses*

*Mountrath Ballyfin Parishes*

*Sat. 15th to Sun. 23rd March*

Lord, for your faithful people,

Life is Changed, not ended

# Ballyfin Anniversaries

## Anniversary and Mass Times

Fri. 21<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Mch

- Fri. 21<sup>st</sup> Mch. 5.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.  
Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup> Mch. 8.00 pm Vigil Mass 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. of Lent  
Sun. 23<sup>rd</sup> Mch. 10.00 am. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. of Lent  
Mon. 24<sup>th</sup> Mch. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification  
Fri. 28<sup>th</sup> Mch. 5.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
Sat. 29<sup>th</sup> Mch. 8.00 pm Vigil 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Lent (Summer time begins)  
Sun. 30<sup>th</sup> Mch. 10.00 am 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Lent (Mother's Day)  
Mon. 31<sup>st</sup> Mch. 7.00 pm Apostolate of Sanctification

*Lord, for your faithful people, life is changed, not ended*

## Confirmation Catechesis

With Confirmation Candidates and their parents continues following 10.00 am Mass on 23<sup>rd</sup> March (this Sunday)  
Further Catechesis on Sun. 4<sup>th</sup> and Sun. 18<sup>th</sup> May

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# Mountrath Anniversaries

## Mass Times Anniversaries

Sat. 22nd - Sun. 30th March

Mass times as listed below are for Mountrath Church unless otherwise indicated

Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup> Mch. 7.00 pm Thomas, Josephine and Fr. John Fitzpatrick  
and deceased members of Deerpark and extended families.  
Michael and Christina Tobin and their daughter,  
Kathleen Delaney. 7<sup>th</sup> Anniv. Michael 40<sup>th</sup> and Christine 9<sup>th</sup> A.

Sun. 23<sup>rd</sup> Mch.. 9.00 am **The Hollow Church.** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent  
Fr. Louis Lamb. 9<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

**11.30 am** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. of Lent

Tues. 25<sup>th</sup> Mch. 10.00 am

Wed. 26<sup>th</sup> Mch. 10.00 am Mary McSpadden -

Mary and James McSpadden and their daughter, Maura Culleton

Thur. 27<sup>th</sup> Mch. 10.00 am

Fri. 28<sup>th</sup> Mch. 10.00 am Altar List of the Dead.

# Mountrath Anniversaries

## Mass Times Anniversaries

Sat. 15th - Sun. 23rd March

*Continued from previous page*

Sat. 29<sup>h</sup> Mch. 7.00 pm Denis Hetherington, Woodbrook (15th Anniv)  
Donal Murphy, Ringstown. 30<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

Sun. 30<sup>th</sup> Mch. 9.00 am **The Hollow Church**

Ann Heffernan, Clonkeen.

**11.30 am** Jack Sinnott, New Line Close 11th Anniv.

Paddy Sinnott, New Line Close, 13th Anniv.

*Lord, for your faithful people, life is changed, not ended.*

# Parish Lottos



# Ballyfin Parish Lotto,

Wed 19<sup>th</sup> March

Nos Drawn 1 2 10 31

No Jackpot Winner

17 Match 3 's Rec € 59 each

New Jackpot €11,000

*Thank you for your support*

# Mountrath Parish Lotto

Thurs. 20<sup>th</sup> March

Numbers Drawn 9 10 12 21

No Jackpot Winner

17 Match 3 Winners Rec. € 59 each

2 Local Winners

Martina Carroll, Promoter Liam Phelan

Jerry Dooley. Promoter Bernie Tynan.

Next Week's Jackpot € 15,000





# A note of thanks

to everyone involved in  
Mountrath and Ballyfin Parish Lottos  
Organising Committees, Promoters,  
Shops and others who facilitate the sale  
of Lotto Tickets  
and most importantly,  
you,

who purchase a Lotto ticket every week.

I extend a very sincere "thank you"  
for your continued support and generosity.

# Mountrath Ballyfin Lottos

## Next Week's



Mountrath € 15,000

Ballyfin € 11,000

# News From Around The Diocese

K and L

# An Evening with James Kilbane

St. Cronan's Church, Roscrea Presents, Songs of Hope with James Kilbane an evening in support of much needed church repairs!

St. Cronan's Church (C of I), Roscrea will host a special evening of Gospel music with

Christian singer James Kilbane on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 8 pm. The evening is in support of vital repair work to the church roof, indoor walls, dampness prevention as well as the ongoing ministry work. Donation tickets are €20 and are available from church organisers, local outlets, Eventbrite, or call 087 3825336. All welcome and all support are appreciated.

Contact Person: Christina McManamon

Phone: 086 9686512 087 6184154

Email: [info@foxydisks.net](mailto:info@foxydisks.net)



# 'Sing for Joy!'

## A Day of Music and Ministry



**Saturday 26 April 2025**  
**on Lough Derg. Boat 9:30am.**



**Open to Young People aged  
18-35. Free to attend.**  
**Register via QR Code.**

Organised by the Knights of St Columbanus.  
[info@knightsofstcolumbanusomagh.co.uk](mailto:info@knightsofstcolumbanusomagh.co.uk)

# Council for Migrants, Refugees and Justice and Peace

*A Council of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference*

*Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, W23 P6D3.*

*Tel: 01-5053000 Email:mrjp@iecon.ie* 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear Bishop Denis,

The Gospel commands us, as the Body of Christ, to uphold the dignity of every human person and to walk with all who have left their home in search of a new life. As a nation, we are only too aware of the causes and impacts of emigration and the need for so many of our people to leave home and find solace in other lands.

At this time of year, and always, we remember and pray for all Irish people overseas – those who have recently emigrated and those who left our shores many years ago. There are few families in the country who do not have a loved one living overseas or that have not experienced emigration at some point. Many continue to struggle abroad with the loneliness of missing family and friends at home. We also think of those who have travelled to this country from foreign lands to begin new lives in Ireland, whether to escape war or persecution or in search of a better life. We pray that they receive the same welcome that we would wish for our own emigrants far from home.

The Council for Migrants, Refugees and Justice and Peace is inviting each diocese to consider taking up a collection in 2025 in support of migrant people, whether they are coming to Ireland or indeed those Irish who have left these shores and are still very much part of our church and communities around the world. Funds raised through this collection will be used to support the work of the Council and other projects that provide pastoral outreach to marginalised and vulnerable communities within Ireland and among Irish people abroad.

During the past year, the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference provided grant funding to a number of worthy organisations involved in the practical and pastoral support of our emigrant and immigrant communities. You will find attached a brochure giving some of the examples of how this funding was utilised and a poster promoting this year's collection. The Council will also be sharing relevant content on the Bishops' Conference website and via social media in the run-up to St Patrick's Day, around which time many dioceses choose to hold this collection, although the resource can be used at any time.

Pope Francis constantly reminds us to rediscover the Church's itinerant nature, 'as the People of God journeying through history on pilgrimage, "migrating", we could say, toward the Kingdom of Heaven' I conclude with the words from his Message for the 110<sup>th</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees (29<sup>th</sup> September 2024):

*"[L]et us unite in prayer for all those who have had to leave their land in search of dignified living conditions. May we journey together with them, be "synodal" together, and entrust them...to the Intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a sign of sure hope and consolation to the faithful People of God as they continue their journey."*

Yours sincerely, Bishop Alan McGuckian Bishop of Down and Connor



# YOUNG ADULT CATHOLIC APOLOGETICS CONFERENCE

Saturday 26th April 2025 | 9 AM - 8 PM  
St. Patrick's College Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 NX63

## Main Talks



**Fr Chris Hayden**  
What are you looking for?  
Discipleship in the Gospel of St. John



**Dr. Andrew Meszaros**  
Can Catholic Teaching  
Change?



**Fr Simon Nolan, O.Carm**  
Understanding the  
Contemporary Mind

## Workshops



**Eoin McCormack**  
Speed Apologetics: Proclaim  
the Faith with Confidence



**Dr. Noreen O'Carroll**  
Assisted Dying  
or Deliberate Killing?



**James Bradshaw**  
Chesterton, Belloc and  
Catholic Social Teaching

**Ticket: €45** including lunch, refreshments and social events  
Contact: [evangeliumireland@gmail.com](mailto:evangeliumireland@gmail.com)



To book tickets : scan QR code,  
search 'Evangelium Ireland' on Eventbrite,  
or go to [evangelium.eventbrite.com](https://www.evangelium.eventbrite.com)

Find us on:



[www.evangelium.ie](http://www.evangelium.ie)

# Parish Finances



# Our Bank Account Details

Ballyfin Parish - A. I. B. (Portlaoise Branch)

Lyster Square, Portlaoise.

Name of Account - Ballyfin Parish Pastoral Council

IBAN - IE44 AIBK 9332 7900 203030

BIC. - AIBKIE2D

If contributing to Parish directly through our bank account  
please include your own name as the reference.

## Mountrath Parish Bank Account Details

Mountrath Parish - Bank Account Details

(Portlaoise Branch) (Bank of Ireland)

Name - Mountrath Parish Current Account

- Account number - 7274 7250

IBAN - IE93 BOFI 9018 2972 7472 50

BIC. - BOFIE2D

# Tax Back Scheme (Ballyfin Parish)

Once again, I want to renew my appreciation to you for the ways you support the Parish and us, the priests of the parish, over the past year. We are deeply grateful.

Donations to Ballyfin Parish of over €250 via the Parish envelopes have the potential to increase your contribution to Parish funds by 31% through participation in the Tax Back Scheme.

"Thank you" to everyone who has joined this scheme - it is very much appreciated.

In 2023, the Tax Rebate scheme augmented our Parish finances by almost € 23,000

If you are not, as yet, part of this scheme and would like more information, please contact me at your convenience. *(Fr. Joe)*

# Tax Back Scheme Mountrath Parish

Once again, I want to renew my appreciation to you for the ways you supported the Parish and us, the priests of the parish, over the past year. We are deeply grateful.

Donations to Mountrath Parish of over €250 have the potential to increase your contribution to Parish funds by 31% through participation in the Tax Back Scheme. It is of huge benefit to the Parish if we know the amount parishioners donate and the name of the donors. Hence this year we are sending out numbered boxes to all households in the Parish.

We sent out CHY3 Forms to eligible parishioners ( who donated over € 250 ) for the first time in 2023 and we were able to claim back over € 13,739 for the years 2021 and 2022 . This is of immense benefit to the Parish. Thank you to everyone who has joined this scheme - it is very much appreciated.

If you receive a CHY3 Form later on in the Spring please consider completing the details and returning it . If you would like more information please contact me.

If you are already part of the Tax Back Scheme — *Thank You*

If you are not yet part of the tax back Scheme, I ask you to consider becoming part of it - It is of huge benefit to the Parish

Thank you for your cooperation in this regard.

## Ballyfin Parish Statement of Account 2023

Income		Expenses	
Basket Collection	€16,305	Pastoral Programmes	€1,720
Envelope Collection	€25,986	Insurance	€5,775
Shrine Income	€876	Security	€273
Rental Income	€5,800	Light/Heat	€17,570
Fundraising	€3,141	Cleaning	€264
Donations	€1,050	Rates/Water/Waste	€422
Tax Refunds/Rebate	€22,807	Maintenance/Repairs	€21,532
Church Bookings	€460	Diocesan Levy	€6,576
Lotto Income	€13,898	Diocesan Retirement Fund	€1,000
Other Income	<u>€ 2,421</u>	Printing/Missalettes	€1,870
<b>Total:</b>	<b>€ 92,744</b>	Altar/Shrine	€3,657
		Telephone/Broadband	€1,379
		Computer/servicing	€2,750
		Accountancy Fees	€1,000
		Youth/Community	€640
		Bank Charges	€863
		Donations	€200
		Loan Interest	<u>€485</u>
		<b>Total:</b>	<b>€67,976</b>

*A very sincere "Thank You" for your continuous and generous support of Ballyfin Parish*

# Mountrath Parish Statement of Account 2023

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenses</b>	
Basket Collection	€ 35,932.00	Pastoral Programmes	€ 721.00
Envelope Collection	€ 33,378.00	Insurance	€ 38,065.00
Shrine Income	€ 11,590.00	Security	€ 503.00
Rental Income	€ 30,890.00	Light/Heat	€ 23,349.00
Fundraising	€ 3,225 .00	Cleaning	€ 200.00
Donations	€ 71,400.00	Rates/Water/Waste	€ 579.00
Tax Refunds/Rebate	€ 3,121 .00	Maintenance/Repairs	€ 79,602.00
Church Bookings	€ 500.00	Diocesan Levy	€ 11,006.00
Lotto Income	€ 31,631.00	Loan Interest	€ 3.00
Office	€ 1,899 .00	Bank Charges	€ 926.00
Deposit Interest	€ 36.00	Diocesan Retire't Fund	€ 1,000 00
Other Income	€ 2,984 .00	Printing/Missalettes	€ 9,233.00
		Altar/Shrine	€ 10,616.00
Total:	€ 226,586.00	Telephone/Broadband	€ 600.00
		Computer/servicing	€ 5,051.00
		Accountancy Fees	€ 540.00
		Youth/Community	€ 260.00
		Hire of Equipment	€ 1,141.00
		Music/Choir	€ 250.00
		Legal/Professional	€ 828.00
		Donations	€ 1,700.00
		Total:	€ 186,173.00

*A very sincere "Thank You" for your continuous and generous*

# Ballyfin Parish Third Party Collections 2024

Retired Priests € 1,525.00

Peter's Pence € 852.00

World Mission € 1,123.00

Trocaire € 2,462.96

Collection for Gaza (Good Friday) € 500.00

Total € 6462.96

I wish to thank you for your support of the work of Trocaire, the Missions, Peter's Pence Collection and the Retired Priests Fund throughout the year .

# Mountrath Parish Statement of Account 2023

Income		Expenses	
Basket Collection	€ 35,932.00	Pastoral Programmes	€ 721.00
Envelope Collection	€ 33,378.00	Insurance	€ 38,065.00
Shrine Income	€ 11,590.00	Security	€ 503.00
Rental Income	€ 30,890.00	Light/Heat	€ 23,349.00
Fundraising	€ 3,225.00	Cleaning	€ 200.00
Donations	€ 71,400.00	Rates/Water/Waste	€ 579.00
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Lotto Income	€ 31,631.00	Loan Interest	€ 3.00
Office	€ 1,899.00	Bank Charges	€ 926.00
Deposit Interest	€ 36.00	Diocesan Retire't Fund	€ 1,000.00
Other Income	€ 2,984.00	Printing/Missalettes	€ 9,233.00
Total:	€ 226,586.00	Altar/Shrine	€ 10,616.00
		Telephone/Broadband	€ 600.00
		Computer/servicing	€ 5,051.00
		Accountancy Fees	€ 540.00
		Youth/Community	€ 260.00
		Hire of Equipment	€ 1,141.00
		Music/Choir	€ 250.00
		Legal/Professional	€ 828.00
		Donations	€ 1,700.00
		Total:	€ 186,173.00

*A very sincere "Thank You" for your continuous and generous*

# Mountrath Parish

## Third Party Collections 2024

Retired Priests € 530.00

Peter's Pence € 550.00

World Mission € 615.00

Trocaire € 2,615.00

Collection for Gaza (Good Friday) € 390.00

Total € 4,700.00

I wish to thank you for your support of the work of Trocaire, the Missions, Peter's Pence Collection and the Retired Priests Fund throughout the year .



Events

at

Bloom HQ

CLASS OF 1990 PRESENTS

Bloom HQ  
Mountrath

# QUIZ

THURSDAY 1ST MAY  
STARTS @8PM SHARP



SPECIAL QUIZ WITH TROPHIES FOR 1ST, 2ND & 3RD WINNERS.

€10 per person - Table of 4  
All proceeds go to the  
Class of 1990 Restoration Project

Monster raffle on the night !!



# Table Quiz

Presented by Class of 90 at Bloom HQ.

Thurs. 1<sup>st</sup> May

8.00 pm Sharp.

€ 10.00 per person.

Tables of 4

All proceeds to  
Class of 90 Restoration Project.

## Monster Raffle

Trophies for

1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup>

Winners

# February 2025 TIMETABLE

## Monday

10 am Mature Movers  
11 am School Program  
2 pm Golden years club  
7 pm Mixed Circuit Training  
7 pm Karate\*

## Tuesday

10 am TRX  
10 am Mother & Baby class\*  
11 am Activator Poles Inc  
1 pm Lunchtime HITT  
6 pm Kids Zumba\*  
6.15 pm Beginner TRX\*  
7 pm Advanced TRX

## Wednesday

11 am Mature Movers  
7 pm Mixed Circuit Training

## Thursday

9 am TRX  
11 am Seated Exercise Inc.  
1 pm Lunchtime HITT  
6.15 pm Beginner TRX\*  
7 pm Advanced TRX  
7 pm Karate\*  
8 pm Bowls\*

## Friday

5.30 pm Kickboxing (3-7)\*  
6.30 pm Kickboxing (8-12)\*  
7.30 pm Kickboxing (13+)\*

## Saturday

11.30 am Pilates\*

PAYG  
and  
Members  
Always  
Welcome

\*These Classes  
are not included  
in the  
Membership fee

For more info contact  
Ruth on 089 2647761

# Classes will be held in BloomHQ

Spacious, modern rooms    Wifi

Sound proofed areas    Free parking

Music stands    And much more...



# MUSIC TEACHERS

## WANTED!

Teachers on ALL instruments accepted

Contact Lucy on 087 259 7895

MEETING ROOMS

HOT DESKS

SERVICED OFFICES

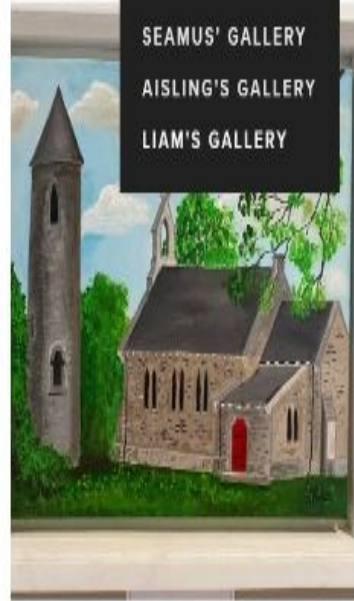
BOOK A DESK

BILLY'S GALLERY

SEAMUS' GALLERY

AISLING'S GALLERY

LIAM'S GALLERY



Canadian Rockies

Timahoe Church and Tower

ABOUT US

SPACES AND SHOP

CONTACT US

**Just a quick reminder,  
you can explore the  
paintings we have for  
sale on our website!**

**[www.bloomhq.ie](http://www.bloomhq.ie)**

MEETING ROOMS

HOT DESKS

SERVICED OFFICES

BOOK A DESK

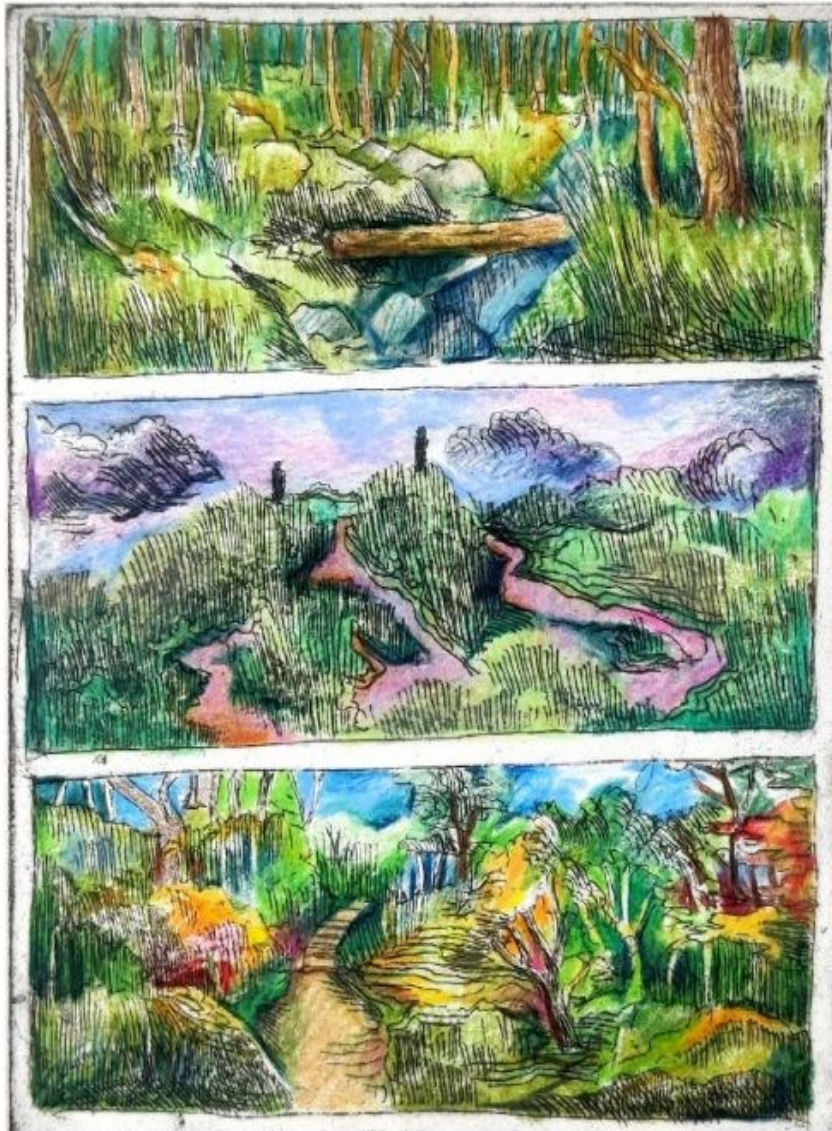
BILLY'S GALLERY

SEAMUS' GALLERY

AISLING'S GALLERY

LIAM'S GALLERY

# NADIA RICE ARTIST Exhibition Opening



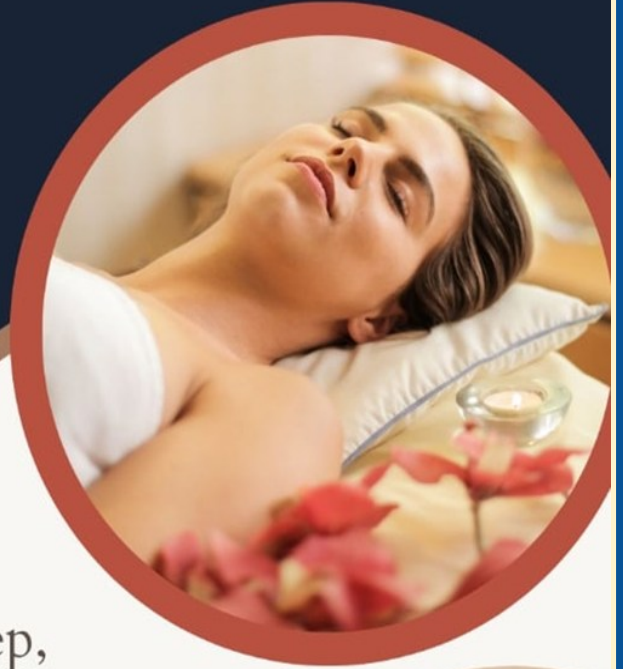
for the month of March, launching on  
**7pm, Friday 28th February**

📍 Gallery of Divine Inspiration,  
BloomHQ, Unit 1, Brigidine Convent,  
Patrick Street, Mountrath, Laois,  
Ireland, R32 DT9F

All are warmly invited to the opening of an  
exhibition by Laois-born artist Nadia Rice.  
The exhibition features a collection of  
drawings and prints celebrating the beauty of  
the Irish landscape and flora.

# Revive Swedish Massage

— — — — —  
REVIVE SWEDISH MASSAGE  
RELAX AND REVIVE TODAY



Swedish Massage is gentle yet deep, it is used to aid relaxation, relieve tension energize the body and improve overall health.

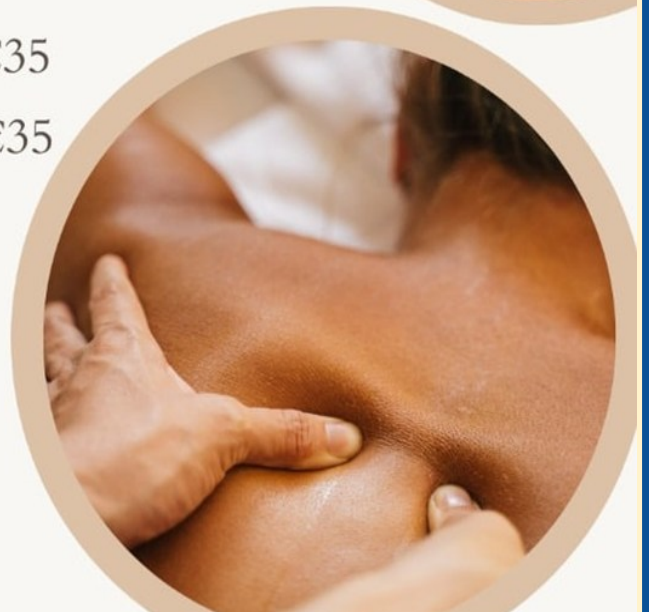
## Our Services

- Full Body Massage 1 hour €50
- Upper Body Massage 45 minutes €35
- Lower Body Massage 45 minutes €35

 085 200 2497

 Bloomhq, Mountrath, R32 DC58

[Book Your Appointment](#)







# White-Horse

Adults

## INDOOR BOWLS

Every Thursday (8pm )  
St Philomena's Hall -Bloom HQ

Beginners Very welcome  
Come along and give it a try!  
Runners or Flat sole shoes are all you need!



Feeling tired sitting at your desk all day?

# LUNCHTIME HIIT WORKOUT



Tuesdays and Thursday @1.00pm

Contact Ruth 089 264 7761

Bloomhq, Patrick St, Mountrath, R32DT9F



LAOIS SPORTS PARTNERSHIP  
COMHAR SPÓIRT NA LAOISE



ciste na  
gcuntas díomhaoin  
the dormant  
accounts fund



SPÓRT ÉIREANN  
SPORT IRELAND

# French Grinds with native speaker



Games, conversation practice, writing, reading and help with homework



#### Available times slots :

- 5pm to 6pm Monday to Thursday
- 1pm to 2pm Friday

Group classes in Bloom HQ (min. 3 students) or one on one in student's home (Mountrath town centre)



#### Fees:

Group classes: 20€/hour  
Private classes: 25€/hour

#### ✉ Email:

[youandfrench@gmail.com](mailto:youandfrench@gmail.com)



#### Phone:

+353 89 491 3931  
Myriam Schultz

# OFFICES TO RENT IN LAOIS



**FREE WIFI**



**SPACIOUS PARKING**



**CANTEEN ACCESS**



**089 2722885**



**[www.bloomhq.ie](http://www.bloomhq.ie)**




**[manager@bloomhq.ie](mailto:manager@bloomhq.ie)**





# Mountrath Health and Fitness Academy



**JOIN NOW**

Ruth- 086 326 2570 

[www.bloomhq.ie](http://www.bloomhq.ie) 

R32 DT9F, Patrick St.  
Mountrath, Co.Laois 



Class of 90 Presents

At Bloom HQ

# Table Quiz

Thurs. 1st May

Starts at 8.30 pm

€ 10.00 per person

Tables of 4

All proceeds to Class of 90

Restoration Project

# Looking for an office space to rent in Laois?



**CONTACT 089 2722885 or**

**[manager@bloomhq.ie](mailto:manager@bloomhq.ie)**

**Visit our website [www.bloomhq.ie](http://www.bloomhq.ie)**

# UNISLIM

## *Join Today!*

### Bloom Hq

### Wednesdays 7-8pm

### Class Talk 8pm

New members  
always welcome!

9 stone  
weight  
loss



**Mairéad McCaul**  
Unislim Member

**Join Unislim for €25**  
**Pay €12 weekly fee thereafter**  
For more info visit [unislim.com](http://unislim.com)



[unislim.com](http://unislim.com) | 1800 603020



# Music Teachers wanted



for Mountrath Music School

**\*soundproof rooms**

**\*free parking**

**\*waiting area for parents**



**contact Lucy 087 259 7895**

LOOKING FOR AN  
**OFFICE TO RENT**  
IN LAOIS?

**FULLY SERVICED  
OFFICES  
FREE PARKING  
CANTEEN  
POSTAL ADDRESS  
PHOTOCOPYING**

**CONTACT 089 272 2885  
OR  
MANAGER@BLOOMHQ.IE**



*Bloomhq, Patrick St, Mountrath R32 DC58*



# Music Classes in Mountrath



## Trad Music

Saturdays from 11 am 6 + years

€ 8 for 30 min group class

Eabha 083 856 6083



## Piano

Sunday mornings 5+ years

€20 per 30 min lesson

Heather 083 054 7772



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*Bloomhq, Patrick St, Mountrath R32 DC58*



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Thursdays 3-30 pm on from 3 years -adult

€ 20 for 30 min individual lesson

Irene 089 981 8065



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Heather 083 054 7772





**Brigidine Convent,  
Patrick st,  
Mountrath,  
R32 DC58**

# **State of the Art Conference Centre with 7M Screen, projector, Full AudioVisual, Gigabyte Broadband**





# Meeting Room

"Rachel's Room"

Brigidine Convent,  
Patrick Street,  
Mountrath

- Broadband Wifi
- Ample free parking
- Canteen

Contact  
[manager@bloomhq.ie](mailto:manager@bloomhq.ie)  
089 2722885

LOOKING FOR AN  
**OFFICE TO RENT**  
IN LAOIS?

RENT FOR AN HOUR/A  
DAY/WEEKLY

CONTACT 089 272 2885 OR  
MANAGER@BLOOMHQ.IE





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Sunday mornings 5+ years

€20 per 30 min lesson

Heather 083 054 7772





# Classes for Primary School aged Children in Mountrath Health & Fitness Academy



## Karate

Mondays & Thursdays 7 pm  
from 6 years up, €6 per class  
Sensei Donal: 087 760 7063

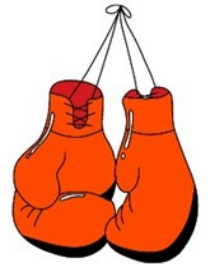
Fridays 5.30 pm 3-7 years, €7

## Kickboxing

6.30 pm 8-12 years, €7

First trial class free

Shane: 086 339 9287



## Brazilian

8-12 years,

Wednesdays 7-8 pm & Saturdays 10-11 am

## Jiu-jitsu\*

€ 35 per month or €5 per class

Jamie; 085 200 2497



## Art & Craft

Wednesdays 5-6 pm, 7-12 years

€ 30 for block of 6 classes

Rhiannon: 089 211 5183

## Violin



Thursdays 3.30 pm on. From 3 years - adult

€20 for 30 min individual lesson

Irene: 089 981 8065



## Trad Music

Saturdays from 11 am, 6+ years

€8 for 30 mins group classes

Eabha 083 8566083



## Piano

Sunday mornings €20 for 30 min individual

lesson Heather 083 054 7772

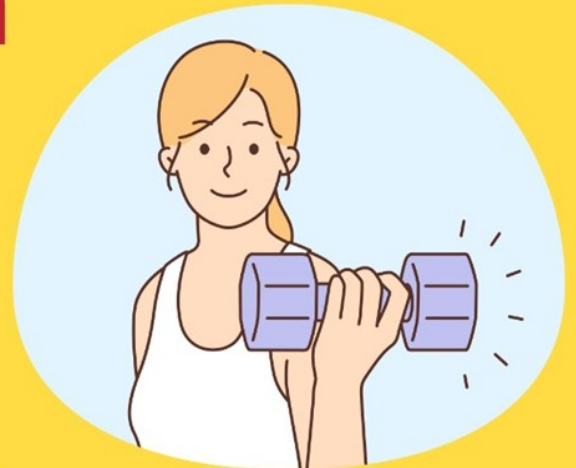
to book talk to the relevant teacher



# Saturday Morning Circuit Training



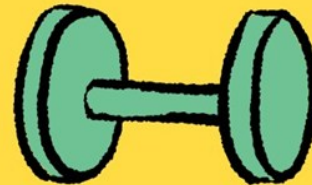
9-10 am



€ 7 PAYG

or

part of your monthly  
membership



contact 086 3262 570

**The Old Convent,  
Patrick St,  
Mountrath, R32 DC58**



# Mountrath Music Rooms

Lessons in BloomHQ



Violin Lessons

by Irene Ramos

089 9818065

[iramos.violinstudio@gmail.com](mailto:iramos.violinstudio@gmail.com)

Thursdays



Irish Traditional Music, Whistle,  
Flute, Concertina, Accordion, Fiddle,  
Banjo and Mandolin

Cliona & Eabha Dowling McDonald

083 8566083

Saturdays



Piano Lessons

by Heather Gavigan 083 054 7772

Sundays



Contact the relevant teacher  
for times, prices etc

# Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu/BJJ in Mountrath



Thinking about learning self-defence and the Art of Jiu-Jitsu? A sport that suits all ages from 8 years.

- \*mobility improvement
- \*improve full body strength
- \*better cardio
- \*helps weight loss
- \*improves flexibility

8 yrs- 18 €35 per month  
Adults €45 per month

€5 per class for under 18's  
€7 per class for Adults  
or included in Monthly Membership

**Wednesdays**

Kids 7-8 pm

Teens /Adults 8-9 pm

**Saturdays**

Kids 10- 11 am

Teens /Adults 11 am -12 pm

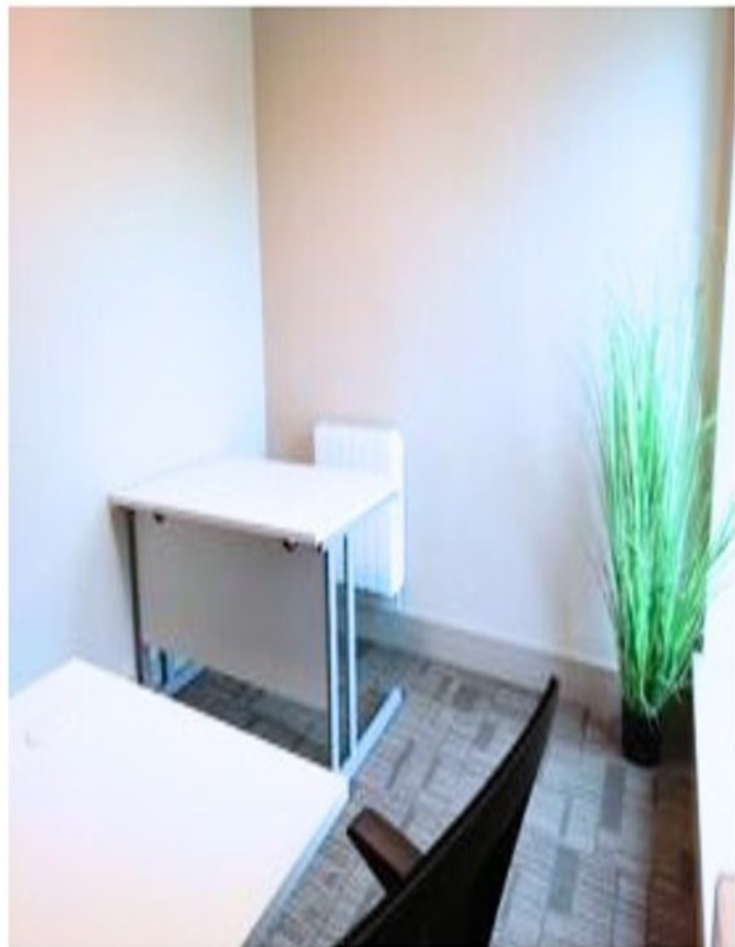
contact Jamie 085 200 2497



Brigidine Convent, Patrick St, Mountrath, R32 DC58



# **1 - 2 person offices for rent in our Social Enterprise centre in Mountrath**



**Contact 0892722885 [manager@bloomhq.ie](mailto:manager@bloomhq.ie)**



# Mountrath Music Rooms



**Contact 089 272 2885  
or 057 930 0036**

**\*Soundproof rooms**

**\*From € 15 per hour**

**\*Perfect for music lessons, counselling or grinds**

**\*free easy car park**

**\*Waiting space**

Brigidine Convent,  
Patrick St,  
Mountrath R32 DT9F



# Class of 90 Presents

At Bloom HQ

## Table Quiz

Thurs. 1st May

Starts at 8.30 pm

€ 10.00 per person

Tables of 4

All proceeds to Class of 90

Restoration Project



# Roadcraft Motorcycle Training

Mick Smith is teaching the new  
RSA approved Motorcycle Initial Basic Training (IBT)  
here in BloomHQ, the old Convent Mountrath.

For more details and to book see:

[www.roadcraft.ie](http://www.roadcraft.ie)

[www.facebook.com/roadcraft.ie](https://www.facebook.com/roadcraft.ie)



# Activities suitable for Senior Citizens in Mountrath

Mature Movers 50 +  
Mondays & Wednesdays 11 am



Bowls inclusive 11 am Tuesdays  
Bowls 8 pm Thursdays

Mountrath Men's Shed  
Tuesdays 10 am- 1 pm  
Thursdays 2 pm- 4 pm  
contact 085 705 3855



Activator Poles Inclusive  
Thursdays 11 am

contact Ruth 086 3262 570



# VIOLIN LESSONS

by Irene Ramos

- Discover the joy of music and unlock your creativity
- Weekly individual and ensemble classes for all ages
- From 3-year-olds to adults
- Studio based Mountrath

FULLY QUALIFIED SUZUKI TEACHER & ABRSM DIPLOMA IN MUSIC PERFORMANCE

FOR RATES AND/OR MORE  
INFO PLEASE CONTACT ME

Phone: 0773222323

Email: [iramos.violinstudio@gmail.com](mailto:iramos.violinstudio@gmail.com)

 Irene Ramos  
VIOLIN STUDIO



# Mountrath Men's Shed



**Old School on  
Patrick Street**



**Tuesdays 10am - 1pm  
Thursdays 2pm - 4pm**

**Contact 0857053855**





# Karate Classes



**Mondays & Thursdays 7 - 8 pm**



**Juniors and Adults**



**Okinawan Karate**



**Black Belt Instructors**

contact Sensei Donal, 5th dan  
087 760 7063

Martial Arts Centre, Old  
Convent, Mountrath,  
R32 DC58



# HIIT LUNCHTIME CLASS

## High-Intensity Interval Training

Tuesdays & Thursdays

1.15 pm for 40 mins

5 euro a class

or

part of your monthly  
gym package

Book with Ruth 086 3262 570





Irish Traditional  
**MUSIC**  
**LESSONS**

**Whistle, Flute, Concertina, Accordion,  
Fiddle, Banjo and Mandolin**



Clióna and Éabha  
Dowling McDonald

**More Information :**

Contact 083  
8566083



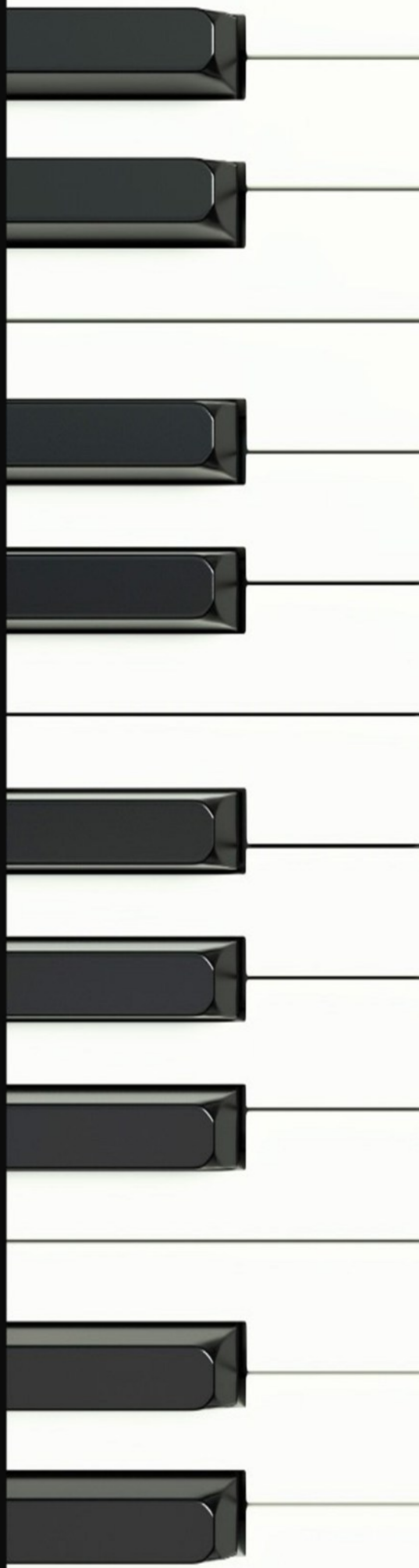
# PIANO TEACHER WANTED



For our new Music Rooms  
Contact Lucy 087 259 7895



The Old Convent,  
Patrick St,  
Mountrath,  
R32 DC58





# ***Mountrath Scouts***



Looking for a way for your kids to learn new skills and spend time in the great outdoors why not try scouts!

**For all ages from beavers to ventures and into leaders !**



## **Scouts is a way to**

- Meet new people.
- Learn new skills.
- Spend time outside.
- Make friends for life.

## **Friday nights**

In the brigidine convent (Bloom HQ) Patrick street mountrath  
R32 DC58

7:00 till 8:30

€5 pp

or

€4 per sibling



Other

News

# Lovely LAOIS HOMECOMING FESTIVAL

“This is a call out to all our sports clubs in Laois to organize an event as part of the **Lovely Laois Homecoming Festival** on the weekend of September 5th, 6th and 7th”



## Remember The Past

Organise a re-union event for past players, members and supporters from at home and abroad.

Return, Reconnect, Reunite. Regale past games and memories. Peruse old photographs and video clips. Enjoy each others company again.

## Glimpse The Future

Perhaps combine the re-union event with juvenile games and activities. Let our past friends see our future stars in action.

## Enjoy The Present

Put the icing on the cake by inviting local musicians, dancers and storytellers to join the festivities entertaining young and old.

*You can use part or all of the above format or feel free to come up with other activities of your own. Should you organize an event please let us know so that we can include you in our Calendar of Events.*

**Laois Sports Partnership Office • Telephone: 0578671248**

# Lovely LAOIS



HOMECOMING FESTIVAL

**FREE** Afternoon

**TEA** *Dance*

SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER

FROM 2PM - 5PM

ST. PHILOMENA'S HALL

BLOOM HQ (FORMERLY THE BRIGIDINE CONVENT)

MOUNTRATH, CO. LAOIS

**DANCING TO**

**MICHAEL CAHILL**  
*with Special Guest*

**SHAWN CUDDY**

**Complimentary Refreshments Served**




BURDOCHAS PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

# Lovely LAOIS



## HOMECOMING FESTIVAL

# LITERARY EVENT

**PRESTON HOUSE, ABBEYLEIX**  *Preston House*  
**SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025**



**11AM-1PM**

### CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

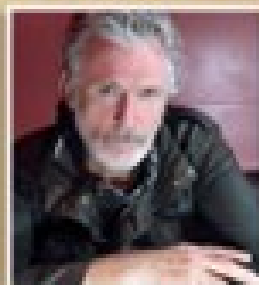
with Helen Moorhouse  
Mountmellick native,  
author of five  
published novels and  
Creative Writing Tutor,  
Helen Moorhouse  
hosts *First Steps  
To Your Story* for  
writers starting their  
first novel.



**2PM-4PM**

### PLAYWRIGHT WORKSHOP

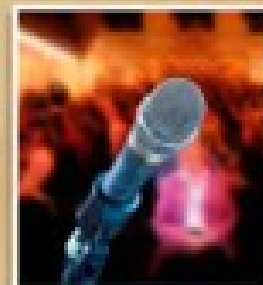
with Frances Harney  
Prolific Ballyfin  
playwright, author  
and drama teacher,  
Frances Harney, will  
take aspiring writers  
through techniques  
for writing for the  
stage.



**4PM-5PM**

### AN AUDIENCE WITH PATRICK BERGIN

Distinguished Hollywood  
actor whose screen  
credits include 'Sleeping  
With The Enemy' 'Robin  
Hood' and 'Patriot Games';  
and TV roles in 'Red Rock'  
and 'Eastenders'; singer  
and poet, Patrick Bergin  
will read from his  
extensive creative output  
in an intimate audience.  
An exclusive event not to  
be missed!



**5PM-6PM**

### OPEN MIC

Writers of all  
persuasions, ages and  
experience are invited  
to share their stories  
and poems in a five  
minute slot before an  
audience. Local poet  
Arthur Broomfield and  
storytellers Johnny  
Thompson and Pat  
Critchley will  
participate - all  
are welcome!

*Please Note:* Tickets for the Literary Event are FREE  
However, you must book your place through [Eventbrite.ie](https://www.eventbrite.ie) (Places are limited)



BUIOCHAS PRODUCTIONS PRESENT

# Lovely LAOIS

## HOMECOMING FESTIVAL

### GALA DINNER

THE MIDLANDS PARK HOTEL, PORTLAOISE  
SATURDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2025

#### PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 4 Course Dinner
- Official Presentation to a well known Laois Celebrity
- Official Presentation to 4 unsung hero's from Lovely Laois
- Folk & Ballads by The Musketeers (Mick Foster, Billy Morrissey & TR Dallas)
- Dancing to Trudi Lalor, Shawn Cuddy & Damien Bowe

Doors Open 7pm  
Dinner served  
@ 8pm sharp

TICKETS  
€59



Special Kildare/Carlow Pilgrimage  
(Limited availability)  
to Fatima EX Dublin Easter 2025

Flying with TAP Airlines

Also 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025 for Feast of Saint Anthony,

13<sup>th</sup> October 2025 for Miracle of Sun

Contact James Treacy 061921470

[jamestreacyphotography@gmail.com](mailto:jamestreacyphotography@gmail.com)

Payment can be made by instalments

# Daily Itinerary

## Day 1 - Holy Thursday (Apr 17th)

- Depart Dublin Airport at 05.35 a.m. and arrive into Lisbon Airport at 08.35a.m.
- On arrival transfer to Fatima where we will check into our hotel.
- Lunch will be provided at the hotel.
- Free time for optional activities.
- Dinner at Hotel.
- This evening we will attend Holy Thursday Mass.

## Day 2 - Good Friday (Apr 18th)

- Following breakfast at our hotel we will walk the Way of the Cross.
- Lunch in Hotel.
- This afternoon, we will have a guided tour of the Sanctuary area visiting, the Capelhina, Rosary Basilica, the graves of the three children.

## Day 3 - Holy Saturday (Apr 19th)

- This morning after breakfast we will visit the Parish Church, Valinhos and Aljustrel.
- Lunch in hotel.
- Following dinner we will attend the Vigil Mass in the Sanctuary.

## Day 4 - Easter Sunday (Apr 20th)

- Following breakfast, we will attend the Rosary and international Mass in the Sanctuary on this Easter Sunday morning.
- Lunch in hotel.
- Afternoon is free for optional activities.
- Dinner in Hotel.

## Day 5 - Easter Monday (Apr 21st)

- After breakfast, we will depart Fatima on our optional tour of Nazare & Bathala.
- A packed lunch will be provided.
- For those staying in Fatima, lunch will be provided in the hotel.
- Dinner and overnight.

## Day 6 - Tuesday (Apr 22nd)

- We bid farewell to Fatima and make our way to Lisbon Airport.
- Enroute, we will have a short visit to Santarem and visit the Church of The Holy Miracle. We will have time for private prayer in this special place.
- We will then continue onto Lisbon Airport.
- Our flight departs Lisbon at 3.20pm and arrives into Dublin Airport at 6.10pm.







# FATIMA PILGRIMAGE

**Barter's  
Travelnet**

17th - 22nd APR '25

Group Leader: James Treacy

Escorted Tour

FATIMA where the Blessed Virgin appeared to the three children, Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta in 1917 is now one of the greatest Marian Shrines in the world.

**VISITING:** Chapel of the Apparitions - The Church of the Holy Trinity - Guided tour of the Sanctuary - Hungarian Stations of the Cross - Aljustrel - Partake in the Easter Celebrations

## INCLUDES:

- Return flights ex Dublin to Lisbon
- 23kg checked in luggage per person
- Coaching as per the itinerary
- 5 nights full board basis staying at 3\* Santo Amaro Hotel
- Religious itinerary with a guided tour of the Sanctuary area and excursion to Aljustrel
- Taxes and Charges

## EXTRAS:

- Single room supplement: €200.00 for duration (first come first served basis)
- Travel Insurance\*: €50 per person up to 79 years of age and €75 per person between 80 & 94 years of age
- Items of personal nature.
- Additional meals not listed.
- Valid Passports are required.
- Optional Day Trip - prices will be given locally by our guide.

*\*Any person taking our travel insurance must get a form signed by their GP at time of booking and this form must be taken to Fatima with you.*

## HOTEL SANTA AMARO:

Located a 5-minute walk from the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima, Hotel Santo Amaro is the place where comfort and well-being are privileged. Hotel Santo Amaro offers you services of the highest quality so that you can enjoy your stay to the fullest. Our two excellent restaurants, where you can taste the typical cuisine of the region, are worthy of special mention. The hotel also has a chapel, two bars, and a souvenir shop. All guests have access to free wifi.

## Cost Per Person

# €859pp sharing

Non-refundable €300 deposit plus insurance premium required at time of booking to secure place



For further information please contact:

**Group Leader James Treacy** : Tel 061-921470 or Mob 086-0572216

**Barter's Travelnet** : 021 485 1700 or [kcallaghan@travelnet.ie](mailto:kcallaghan@travelnet.ie)

BUIOCHAS PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

# Lovely LAOIS



## HOMECOMING FESTIVAL

# LITERARY EVENT

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**11AM-1PM**

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Mountmellick native,  
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Creative Writing Tutor,  
Helen Moorhouse  
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To Your Story* for  
writers starting their  
first novel.



**2PM-4PM**

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with Frances Harney  
Prolific Ballyfin  
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09:29



Lovely Laois Homecomi...



Trudi Lalor



 Admin 21h · 

FREE Family Fun Day on Saturday 6th September at The Old Fort in Portlaoise. 4 Hours of entertainment featuring ABBA Gold - ABBA Tribute Band. There will also be a DISCO and side shows .

The Old Fort is a beautiful venue in Portlaoise town ( behind the new Library) and is the ideal location for this family fun day event . We will also have FREE side shows and face painting . So save the date and ALL are welcome . Family tickets will be available through Eventbrite and are FREE of charge . The link to your free family tickets will be made available here in the coming weeks

# ABBA

## GOLD

### THE SHOW



PERFORMING THE

## GREATEST HITS